

TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK

SS.4.CG.1.1 *Explain why the Florida government has a written Constitution.*

BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS

- Students will recognize that every state has a state constitution.
- Students will explain the relationship between a written constitution, the government established, and the citizens.

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN

3rd Grade	<p>S.S.3.CG.3.1 Explain how the U.S. and Florida Constitutions establish the structure, function, powers, and limits of government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will recognize that the U.S. Constitution and the Florida Constitution establish the framework for national and state government. ● Students will recognize how government is organized at the national level (e.g., three branches of government). ● Students will provide examples of people who make and enforce rules and laws in the United States (e.g., congress and president) and Florida (e.g., state legislature and governor).
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WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING

5th Grade	<p>SS.5.CG.3.5 Explain how the U.S. Constitution influenced the Florida Constitution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will identify the purpose of a constitution (e.g., provides a framework for government, limits government authority, protects the rights of the people). ● Students will recognize the basic outline of the U.S. and Florida Constitutions (both have articles, amendments, and preambles).
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TIMING/PACING NOTES

- This benchmark may be taught at any point in the school year.
- Teaching this benchmark alongside SS.4. CG.3.1 and SS.4.CG.3.2 may make content mastery more achievable for students.

UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK

→ What to know:

- ◆ The benchmark cognitive demand is a lower DOK with recognize
- ◆ Recognize can mean: name, list, match, or write
- ◆ Explain can mean: tell, write, connect, or elaborate
- ◆ Historically, one requirement for statehood has been the creation of a state constitution with a republican form of government
- ◆ Each state has their own constitution modeled after the U.S. Constitution
- ◆ The U.S. has a federal system of government
 - Federalism = A system of government in which power is divided and shared between national, state, and local governments
- ◆ The 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution grants states all powers not specifically delegated to the national government
- ◆ The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land
- ◆ The Florida Constitution serves as the framework for governance, establishing structure, function, and purpose
 - The Florida Constitution establishes three branches of government (executive, legislative, judicial)
 - The Florida Constitution provides for a separation of powers and system of checks and balances between branches of government
 - The Florida Constitution's Preamble and U.S. Constitution's Preamble are nearly identical
 - The state government of Florida is a representative form of government
- ◆ A representative government involves electing officials to represent citizens' ideas and concerns in government instead of each citizen participating directly in every decision made

→ Main concepts to teach:

- ◆ The U.S. Constitution applies to the United States as a whole, but each of the 50 states (Florida) has its own constitution as well
- ◆ The reason(s) Florida has a constitution
- ◆ The Florida Constitution establishes structure, function, and powers of state government
- ◆ Government power is exercised through the elected representatives of the people

→ Examples:

- ◆ Florida Constitution
 - An agreed upon set of rules/laws for Florida
 - Most recent version of the constitution was ratified in 1968
 - Between 1812 and 1885 Florida went through 6 constitutions
 - Sets up a government that is similarly structured to the national government
 - Begins with "We the People"
 - Protects individual rights with the inclusion of the Declaration of Rights
 - Outlines many of the reserved powers granted to states in the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution
- ◆ State Government:
 - Legislative (makes laws): Florida House of Representatives, Florida Senate [Florida Legislature]
 - Executive (enforces laws): Governor and Cabinet
 - Judicial (interprets laws): Florida courts

CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on state government:

1. [The White House: State & Local Government](#)
2. [National Conference of State Legislatures: State Constitutions](#)

Information on Florida Constitution:

1. [Florida Constitution](#)
2. [Florida Memory: Florida's Historic Constitutions](#)
3. [Library of Congress: Florida Constitution](#)